

Background

- ★ Communities of macroinvertebrates live just beneath the waves in most freshwater ecosystems
- ★ They serve many important ecological functions, including nutrient cycling, decomposition, and acting as both predators and prey

Methods

- ★ Creation of litter bags from areas surrounding the site
- ★ Placement of litter bags in areas of varying sunlight throughout the Old River Park Oxbow
- ★ Collection after 2 weeks
- ★ Macroinvertebrates were then sorted by order and sunlight concentration

Results

- ★ Our 50/50 sample had a Simpson's Diversity rating of $D=0.2840$
- ★ Lower numbers indicate higher levels of biodiversity
- ★ Full Sun: $D=0.5139$
- ★ Mostly Sun: $D=0.4583$
- ★ Mostly Shade: $D=0.6827$
- ★ No Sun: $D=0.7551$

Half a Pocketful of Sunshine: Partially Shaded Sites Provide a Sanctuary for Species Diversity

Abigail Carter, Palmer Lambert, & David Speth

